

OVERVIEW

Maintaining family contact and regular visitation is essential to preserve a child's attachment to his or her parents, siblings, and other family members, and can lessen both the child's and the parent's anxiety about the child being placed in out-of-home care.

Caseworkers must accurately document a child's visitation plans in MiSACWIS for incorporation into the case service plan. This item outlines the information required to be included in the visitation plan contained in the case service plan.

For requirements regarding the frequency, duration, location, and supervision of parenting time visits, sibling visits, and visitation and contact with other relatives, see [FOM 722-06I, Maintaining Contact: Parenting Time, Sibling Visitations, and Contact](#).

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

For all visitation plans, including parenting time plans, sibling visitation, and visits with relatives or other adults who have a significant relationship with the child, the caseworker must document the following in MiSACWIS for inclusion in the case service plan:

- Child's name.
- Visitor's name.
- Effective date of the visitation plan.
- End date of the visitation plan.
- Frequency of scheduled visitation.
- Duration of scheduled visitation.
- Visit location.
- Visitation type.

PARENTING TIME

For all parenting time visitation plans, the caseworker must document the following in the visitation plan for inclusion in the case service plan.

- Describe behaviorally specific objectives expected of the parent(s) during parenting time, including:
 - If parenting time is supervised, define the purpose of supervised visitation (e.g., to evaluate parenting skills, to

encourage parental responsibility, to ensure child safety, etc.).

- Specify what is expected of the parent(s) during parenting time to meet each child's individual needs.
- Document specific parental activities recommended by a service provider, if applicable.
- Describe the agreed upon behavior management plan for the child and parent during parenting time. Indicate if supervision will be utilized to ensure the child's safety. If so, identify the specific risks that are present and require supervision and describe the safety plans developed to mitigate the risk.
- Describe how the agency is assisting the parents in meeting the objectives of the parenting time plan. Include steps taken to prepare and support the parent(s), caregiver(s), person(s) supervising parenting time, and/or children prior to, during, and after parenting time.
- Describe how the plan includes opportunities for parental participation in the child's life activities, such as school meetings, medical and mental health appointments, and other activities. If this is not part of the plan, provide an explanation.
 - Document ways that the agency and caregiver will support the parent remaining in the parental role through participation in medical appointments, school conferences, and other tasks typically completed by a parent.
 - Document how appointments or activities will be communicated to the parents.
 - Document plans to maintain contact between the child and parents between visits, such as phone calls, texts, emails, attendance at extracurricular activities, etc.

Circumstances to Expand Parenting Time

The caseworker must identify circumstances necessary to expand parenting time, including increasing frequency and duration, reducing supervision, and moving parenting time to the most family-like setting possible. The caseworker must detail, in behaviorally

specific terms, risk and safety concerns that must be reduced to move to less restrictive oversight and expanded frequency and duration.

Parenting Time Evaluation

The caseworker must summarize the overall parenting time evaluation:

- Indicate if the purpose of parenting time was accomplished during the report period.
- Detail whether the parent consistently demonstrated the agreed upon identified behaviors associated with meeting the child's needs during parenting time.
- If parenting time did not occur, describe the circumstances that prevented parenting time from taking place.

SIBLING VISITATION

Caseworkers must ensure that siblings in foster care who are not placed together have regular contact and visitation; see [FOM 722-06I, Maintaining Contact: Parenting Time, Sibling Visitations, and Contact](#). The caseworker must document the sibling visitation plan in MiSACWIS for inclusion in the case service plan.

VISITATION CONTACTS

Caseworkers must document all parenting time and sibling visits in MiSACWIS as a social work contact, even if the caseworker was not present for the visit; see [FOM 722-06H, Case Contacts](#). Social work contacts documenting parenting time, sibling visits, or other contacts made as part of a visitation plan must be linked to the visitation plan for inclusion in the appropriate section of the case service plan.

Note: If siblings are placed separately and are participating in parenting time together in place of separate sibling visits, the caseworker must enter separate social work contacts to be linked to the parenting time visitation plan and sibling visitation plan.

LEGAL BASIS**State**

Probate Code, MCL 712A.18f(3)(e)

Probate Code, MCL 712A.18f(3)(f)

Licensing Rule

Mich Admin Code R400.12419(1)(g)

Mich Admin Code R400.12420(1)(f)

Mich Admin Code R400.12421(c)

Mich Admin Code R400.12421(d)

POLICY CONTACT

Questions about this item may be directed to the [Child Welfare Policy Mailbox](#).